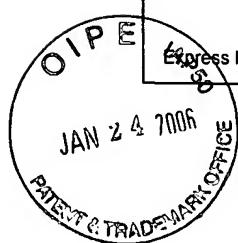


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Docket No.: 20435/0202684-US0  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Youichi Zenda et al.

Application No.: 10/529,957

Confirmation No.: 7457

Filed: March 31, 2005

Art Unit: N/A

For: MEMBER-JOINING DEVICE

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)).

Applicant submits herewith copies of foreign and non-patents in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).

A concise explanation of relevance of the items BA-BD on form PTO/SB/08 is in the form of an English language copy of a Search Report from a foreign patent office, issued in a counterpart application, which refers to the relevant portions of the references.

A concise explanation of the relevance of document BE can be found on page 1 of the specification.

Citations BF-BH are not in the English language. In accordance with 1.98(c), Applicants state:

The requirement for concise explanation of relevance of Citations BF-BH BC is satisfied by the attached translation of the abstract (see MPEP § 609 A(3)).

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency of up to \$300.00 or credit any excess in this fee to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Dated: January 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By  *Louis J. DelJuidice*  
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JAN 24 2006

PTO/SB/08a/b (07-05)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031  
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| Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO                      |   |    |   | Complete if Known      |                        |
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> |   |    |   | Application Number     | 10/529,957-Conf. #7457 |
| (Use as many sheets as necessary)                    |   |    |   | Filing Date            | March 31, 2005         |
|  |   |    |   | First Named Inventor   | Youichi Zenda          |
|  |   |    |   | Art Unit               | N/A                    |
|  |   |    |   | Examiner Name          | Not Yet Assigned       |
| Sheet  | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 20435/0202684-US0      |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |  |                                |  |   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials*    | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|                       |                       | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |  |   |
|                       |                       |  |                                |  |   |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |   |                                |  |   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials*       | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures Appear |
|                          |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                |  |   |
| BA                       | JP-2-89928-U          |   | 07-17-1990                     | Okamura Corp.                                      |   |
| BB                       | JP-50-118154-U        |   | 09-26-1975                     | Asahi Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha                       |   |
| BC                       | JP-51-141219-U        |   | 11-13-1976                     | Kabushiki Kaish Roa                                |   |
| BD                       | JP-61-129913-U        |   | 08-14-1986                     | Itoki Kosakusho Co., Ltd.                          |   |
| BE                       | JP-05-146316-A        |   | 06-15-1993                     | Kokuyo Co., Ltd.                                   | ✓   |
| BF                       | JP-2004-147689-A      |   | 05-27-2004                     | Kokuyo Co., Ltd.                                   | ✓   |
| BG                       | JP-2005-147239-A      |   | 06-09-2005                     | Kokuyo Co., Ltd.                                   | ✓   |
| BH                       | JP-2005-163945        |   | 06-23-2005                     | Kokuyo Co., Ltd.                                   | ✓   |

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |                       |   |  |  |                |
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| Examiner Initials               | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |  |  | T <sup>6</sup> |
| CA                              |                       | International Search Report for PCT/JP2004/007158 mailed October 12, 2004.  |  |  |                |

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<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

|                  |                    |  |
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| W:104<br>3510202 | Date<br>Considered |  |
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Application No. (if known): 10/529,957

Attorney Docket No.: 20435/0202684-US0

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